Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 03665 202114Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4247

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, PN

SUBJECT: STUDENT DEMONSTRATION--AT IT AGAIN

REF: PANAMA 3058

1. ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY REPORTS, SECONDARY STUDENTS PROTESTING LACK OF LABORATORY EQUIPMENT HAVE DEMONSTRATED THIS MORNING (JUNE 20) AT PANAMA CITY'S CHOOL OF ARTS AND CRAFTS (ARTES Y OFICIOS). THE SCHOOL IS LOCATED ACROSS BUSY TRANISTHMIAN HIGHWAY FROM UNIVERSITY OF PANAMA, AND STUDENTS--ESTIMATED AT 200-400-- REPORTEDLY THREW ROCKS AT BLOCKED VEHICLES DURING DEMONSTRATION. MINISTER OF EDUCATION ROYO AND NATIONAL GUARD G-5, LT. COL. SUAREZ, MET WITH STUDENTS, REPORTEDLY TO HEAR OUT THEIR GRIEVANCES. DEMONSTRATION ENDED SHORTLY AFTER MIDDAY.

2. WHILE DETAILS NOT YET AVAILABLE, DEMONSTRATION IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF RENEWED STUDENT ACTIVISM. AND, ALTHOUGH APPARENTLY DIRECTED AT PROTESTING INADEQUATE FACILITIES.-AS WAS MAY 19 NATIONAL INSTITUTE DEMONSTRATION (REFTEL).-RATHER THAN THE GOP'S CONDUCT OF THE TREATY NEGOTIATION, IT IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO CONTROL STUDENTS AS TIGHTLY AS IT HAS IN THE PAST.

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, SECONDARY SCHOOLS, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JÚL 2006

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